

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1, 3-13, 16-29, 38, 40-44 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 2, 14-15, 30-37, and 39 are cancelled. New claims 42-44 have been added.

Claims 1, 3-4, 10-13, 20-21, 26-27, 29, 38 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Allen et al. and Mitchell. It is respectfully submitted, however, that the claims are now patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

Applicant's invention, as recited by claim 1, includes a feature which is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

... a receiver configured to receive encoded MPEG data from the device to be controlled, the received encoded MPEG data having been separated from a broadcast signal and converted to a format for display on the remote control unit at the device to be controlled before being decoded at the device to be controlled.

Basis for this amendment may be found, for example, at page 8, line 15 to page 9, line 3 and Fig. 1 of the originally filed application. No new matter has been added.

As shown in Applicants' Fig. 1, the device to be controlled in Applicants' exemplary embodiment includes a MPEG-TS separator 26 which separates the MPEG data from a broadcast signal and an MPEG decoder 27 for decoding the MPEG data before they are output to a TV set. (Page 6, lines 4-5). Applicants' exemplary embodiment also includes a transmitter 22 for wirelessly transmitting the separated MPEG signals to remote controller 10. As shown in Applicants' Fig. 1, however, Applicants' exemplary embodiment converts the separated MPEG data at converter 30 to a format for display on the remote control unit before the MPEG data is decoded by decoder 27. The converted MPEG data that has not been decoded at the device to be controlled 20 is wirelessly transmitted to remote controller 10 by transmitter 22. The MPEG data is then decoded by decoder 14 at the remote controller. (Page 8, line 15 to page 9, line 3 and Fig. 1). That is, the encoded MPEG data that has been converted at the device to be controlled 20 by converter 30 is wirelessly transmitted to the remote controller 10 before being decoded at the device to be controlled and is received at receiver 13 of the remote controller 10 and decoded by decoder 14.

Thus, Applicants' exemplary embodiment corresponds to "...the received encoded MPEG data having been separated from a broadcast signal and converted to a format for display on the remote control unit at the device to be controlled before being decoded," as recited in claim 1. Applicants' claimed features are advantageous over the prior art because the step of decoding MPEG data to be transmitted to the remote controller 10 is eliminated at the device to be controlled 20, while maintaining the efficiency of transmitting encoded MPEG data.

Allen et al. does not disclose a converter of any kind. Accordingly, Allen et al. does not disclose MPEG data that is "...converted to a format for display on the remote control unit at the device to be controlled," as recited in claim 1.

The Office Action argues that the set top box (STB) 102 in Mitchell receives an encoded MPEG signal from headend 104 and converts the signals into a form suitable for use by the television 202. (Office Action, page 2, lines 12-15). The encoded MPEG signals in Mitchell, however, are decoded at the STB 102 before they are transmitted to the television. (Para. [0019]). Thus, Mitchell does not disclose receiving an "...encoded MPEG data having been separated from a broadcast signal and converted to a format for display on the remote control unit at the device to be controlled before being decoded at the device to be controlled," as recited in claim 1.

Thus, claim 1 is allowable over the art of record. Claims 3-4, 10-13, 20-21, 26-27 and 29 depend from claim 1. Accordingly, claims 3-4, 10-13, 20-21, 26-27 and 29 are also allowable over the art of record.

Claim 38, while not identical to claim 1, includes features similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 38. Thus, claim 38 is also allowable over the art of record for reasons similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1. Claim 40 depends from claim 38. Accordingly, claim 40 is also allowable over the art of record.

Claims 16-20, 22, 25 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Allen et al., Mitchell and Lilleness et al. These claims are allowable, however, because they depend from an allowable claim.

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Claims 30-34, 36-37 and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Allen et al. and Terada et al. The rejection of claims 30-34, 36-37 and 39, however, are moot due to the cancellation of these claims.

Claim 35 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Allen et al., Terada et al. and Mitchell. The rejection of claim 35, however, is moot due to the cancellation of this claim.

Claim 41 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Allen et al., Mitchell and Knowles et al. Claim 41 is allowable, however, because it depends from allowable claim 38.

New claims 42-44 have been added. Basis for new claims 42 and 43 may be found in original claims 1 and 38, respectively. Basis for new claim 44 may be found in original claim 38. No new matter has been added.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this Application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

RatnerPrestia



Jacques L. Etkowicz, Reg. No. 41,738
Attorney for Applicants

DFD/so

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P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482
(610) 407-0700

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